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The Chancellor replied that it was not a territorial position which he had in mind. Thirdly, under no circumstances should atomic weapons be used.

The Chancellor furthermore pointed out that according to information available to him the Soviets at this moment have stationed in the Soviet Zone twenty highly armed divisions. He could add nothing further to the questions asked by the Foreign Minister since developments cannot be foreseen.

The American Foreign Minister stated that, if the Soviets should attempt, either directly or through the GDR, to interfere with access to Berlin by force he thought the West should be prepared to use force, if necessary, in order to overcome the force used by the adversary.

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The Chancellor remarked that in 1968 the NATO Treaty is subject to denunciation. He had talked about this with the Foreign Minister as early as December 1957. He considered it would be a good thing if this date could be put off far into the future. One should talk about this during the next few years. He was certain that the Soviets had included into their calculations this possibility which exists as of 1968.

The American Foreign Minister pointed out that, in reply to this apprehension of the Chancellor, President Eisenhower and he himself had publicly stated that the United States considered the treaty to be an agreement of unlimited duration. He asked the Chancellor for how many years the treaty should be extended.

The Chancellor talked of 20 years beginning in 1968. He emphasized in particular the moral strength which all European States derive from this treaty which, after all, constitutes the link with the United States. In the event of a dissolution of NATO this moral strength would be lost. He is at present worried about the development in Italy. In France de Gaulle has been elected for seven years. Yet one does not know what will come afterwards. In the Federal Republic elections take place every four years and while the present government enjoys a good majority the opposition is very foolish. The closer 1968 approaches the greater his worries are. He therefore requests that this question be examined because it depended ultimately on the United States.

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